

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)

Monthly Ebulletin



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January 2018 Edition

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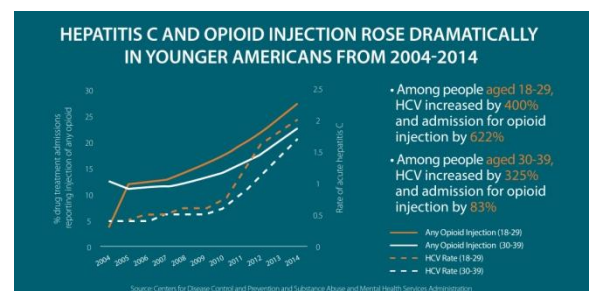
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National STD Curriculum

The National STD Curriculum is a free educational Web site from the University of Washington STD Prevention Training Center and the University of Washington. This project is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The National STD Curriculum addresses the epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, management, and prevention of STDs. Free CME credit and free CNE credit are offered through the [site](#).

New CDC Research: Increases in Hepatitis C Infections Linked to Worsening Opioid Crisis

Last month, the [Division of Viral Hepatitis](#) at the CDC unveiled [new research](#) that links hepatitis C (HCV) cases with injection of opiates (IDU), both prescription and heroin. The study used data from the CDC hepatitis surveillance system and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) record of admissions to substance use disorder treatment and found a simultaneous, substantial increase in acute HCV incidence and treatment admission related to opiate injection from 2004 to 2014. According to the researchers, the findings strongly suggest that the national increase in acute HCV infection is related to the country's opioid epidemic and associated increases in IDU.



A Female Condom by Any other name...

The female condom may soon be named the single-use internal condom. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed changes to the condom on December 4, 2017. This change also includes reclassifying them from a class III medical device to a class II medical device. This would put them in the same class as traditional "male"

condoms and would simplify their approval process from a premarket approval process to a premarket notification process before marketing them.

Of special interest to DDP contractors and partners, the FDA is proposing to also indicate that this new classification regulation includes the use of these devices for both vaginal and anal intercourse.

These changes are listed on the Federal Register Notice and are open for comments through February 2, 2018. Partners may submit comments if they are interested by clicking [here](#).

This is a great time to order female condoms. DDP currently has 100 cases on hand, ready to ship! For questions about the DDP Condom Distribution Program or to order female/internal condoms, please contact [Beth Marschak](#) at (804) 864-8008.

Transgender Awareness Training for Your Staff

DDP conducted a three-day Transgender Training of Trainers (TOT) in December. Individuals that attended the training are now able to offer training on transgender awareness, best practices in serving the trans and gender non-binary community, and related topics for health districts, clinical sites and community-based organizations. Agencies or individuals interested in receiving training should contact [Ted Heck](#), DDP's Transgender Health Services Coordinator, at (804) 864-8012 for assistance.

Twenty-three people attended the TOT, representing 12 community-based organizations, one local health department, and VDH. Each training team was required to include one transgender or gender non-binary identified trainer. Samuel Lurie, LICSW, MEd, Founder and Director of Transgender Training and Advocacy, led the three-day course. He has presented trainings on transgender topics to over 30,000 people around the US since 1998.

Let's Talk About PrEP Initiatives

The first phase of the Let's Talk About PrEP campaign wrapped up in the last quarter of 2017. New messaging from wave 2 of the campaign will begin appearing in January throughout the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan statistical area (VBNN MSA). The new wave of messaging will focus on directing individuals to resources, such as the Virginia Greater Than AIDS pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) FAQ page and a services locator for PrEP navigation and PrEP clinic services. Individuals currently taking PrEP have also been selected to be Greater Than AIDS Ambassadors and will appear in testimonials available later this year.

Partners and agencies that are interested in free Let's Talk About PrEP materials should contact [Chris Barnett](#), Social Media Coordinator. This includes agencies that are not part of the VBNN MSA, as an order was placed for other geographical locations in the state.



PERSONNEL

Welcome

STD Operations and Data Administration welcomes **Brenna Pevato** as the new FOCUS Project Coordinator. The Frontlines of Communities in the United States program, or FOCUS, is funded by Gilead Sciences and aims to improve hepatitis C (HCV) screening and linkage to care. She previously worked at Richmond City Health District for three years, first as a CDC Fellow with the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP), and subsequently as a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Brenna can be reached at B.pevato@vdh.virginia.gov.



Welcome



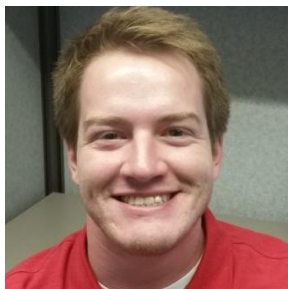
Please welcome **Bruce Taylor** to his new role as the Drug User Health Coordinator for DDP. Bruce will oversee implementation of Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR) services. Bruce was instrumental in working on passage of the CHR legislation in 2017 and has lead VDH efforts to promote community mobilization and law enforcement buy-in for CHR services. Bruce can be reached at (804) 864-8015 or at bruce.taylor@vdh.virginia.gov. Questions about the Community HIV Planning Group should be directed to

Renate Nnoko, HIV Care Services Planner, at renate.nnoko@vdh.virginia.gov or at 804-864-7950.

Congratulations to **Caroline Campbell**, HIV Testing Coordinator, on her recent promotion. Caroline will continue her existing job duties of overseeing the DDP HIV Testing team and the Virginia HIV/AIDS Resource and Consultation Centers. This job reclassification formalizes her role in providing consultation on STDs for the STD Operations and Data Administration unit, health districts, and community-based organizations. With 34 years of public health experience at the local, regional and state levels, as well as a strong client-centered approach to service delivery and problem solving, Caroline has a wealth of knowledge



and wisdom to share. Caroline can be reached at (804) 864-7978 or caroline.campbell@vdh.virginia.gov.

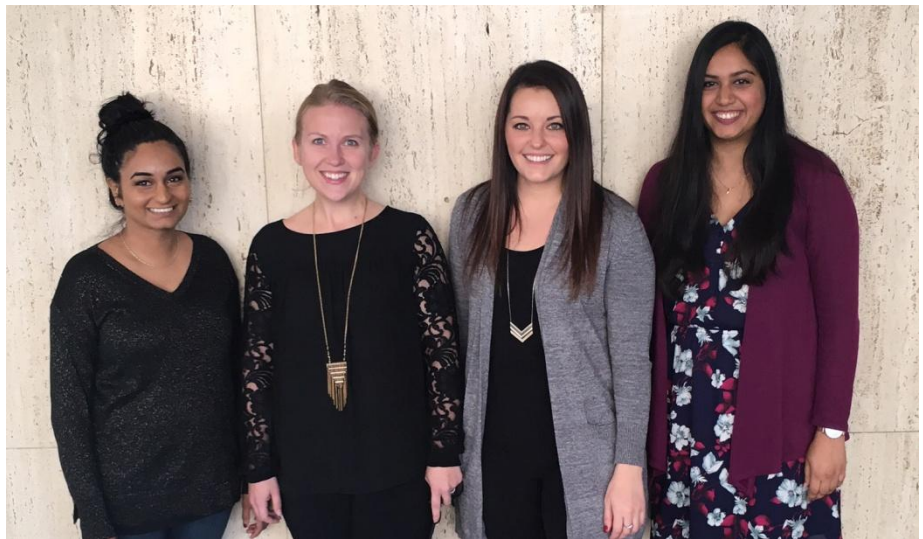


DDP congratulates **Cameron Rose** as the new STD Epidemiologist & Assessment, Assurance, Policy Development, and Prevention Strategies (AAPPS) Coordinator! Cameron received his MPH with concentrations in infectious diseases and public health education from Virginia Tech. In his previous position,

Cameron worked as the Viral Hepatitis Testing Coordinator, responsible for enhancing viral hepatitis testing efforts throughout the state and providing technical assistance to local health department staff and community based organizations. In his new role, Cameron will coordinate activities related to the STD prevention grant and provide epidemiologic support for the STD program. He can be reached at (804) 864-7997, or at cameron.rose@vdh.virginia.gov.

Personnel Spotlight: Analyst Team

The Division of Disease Prevention (DDP) Analyst team works with the HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Services units to provide data analysis, quality review, technical assistance and support, and publication and dissemination for Division-wide grant initiatives and projects. The Analyst Team is responsible for providing data analysis and technical assistance for data requests and grant applications; coordinating data evaluation for initiatives such as Black Box, Data to Care, Bridges 757, and the Special Projects of National Significance Health Information Technology (SPNS HIT) grant; presenting epidemiologic data to meetings, conferences, and summits; leading e2Virginia development; managing data quality projects to enhance and improve HIV data to measure improvement of health outcomes along the HIV care continuum; and providing technical assistance support for e2Virginia.



Pictured from left to right: Sahithi Boggavarapu, Lauren Yerkes, Amanda Saia, and Sonam Patel.
Not pictured: Fatima Elamin.

Sahithi Boggavarapu is the Care Markers Data Manager for DDP. Sahithi has been working in DDP since 2014, where she manages efforts to expand the Care Markers Database, including evaluation for the Black Box project, and the ongoing development and training capacity for e2Virginia. Sahithi can be reached at (804) 864-8040 or sahithi.boggavarapu@vdh.virginia.gov.

Fatima Elamin is the HIV Prevention Data Manager for DDP. Fatima has worked in DDP for five years, and currently leads the data management, analysis and evaluation for the CDC-funded 15-1506 and 15-1509 HIV prevention grants, focused on PrEP implementation and services navigation in the Eastern region. Fatima can be reached

at (804) 864-7903 or fatima.elamin@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sonam Patel is the HIV Surveillance Data Analyst for DDP. Sonam has been working in DDP for three years, where she evaluates Ryan White data for quality management, implements multi-jurisdictional data exchange initiatives, and leads the evaluation for the HIV surveillance supplemental testing grant. Sonam can be reached at (804) 864-7334 or sonam.patel@vdh.virginia.gov.

Amanda Saia is the HIV Surveillance Epidemiologist for DDP. Amanda has worked in DDP since 2015 and conducts HIV epidemiologic activities, including leading Data to Care efforts, and evaluates HIV surveillance data for program planning and the Community HIV Planning Group. Amanda can be reached at amanda.saia@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7862.

Lauren Yerkes is the Care Continuum Data and Project Manager for DDP. Lauren has worked for DDP since 2013, where she oversees e2Virginia development, HIV epidemiology activities and evaluation, serves as the project manager for the SPNS HIT grant, and leads the work of the Analyst Team. Lauren can be reached at lauren.yerkes@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7988.